REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-15, 17-22 and 28 are rejected as being obvious in view of Cisco Document 78-10548-02 (the "Cisco reference"). Claims 23-27 define allowable subject matter, but are objected due to dependency on rejected base claims. None of the claims have been cancelled. No claims have been added.

Applicant thanks Examiner Wilson for the courtesy of an interview on November 16, 2006. Claims 1, 15 and 21 were discussed. Although no decision was reached, Mr. Wilson indicated that clarifying the step of "automatically generating at least one route distribution rule" to emphasize that rules used to constrain distribution of routes within a VPN are generated prior to exporting or downloading them to VPN sites would, in his opinion, distinguish over the Cisco reference. Additional searching would, however, be required. Claims 1, 15, and 21 have been amended accordingly.

The Cisco reference concerns software called "MPLS VPN Solution," which is a "provisioning and auditing tool." Cisco at 3-1. It works with the "Cisco IP Manager" software for downloading configlets to target routers. The examiner admits on page 3 of the Detailed Action that Cisco does not "expressly call for automatic generation of the route distribution to the plurality of sites" but concludes that doing so would be obvious. He reasons that the route "rules for route distribution would have to be performed automatically" in software, such as Cisco's, which configures individual provider edge routers in a VPN.

As explained during the interview, the Cisco reference does not appear to suggest automatically generating rules that constrain distribution of routes within the provide network(s) only to sites in the VPN, according to their topological relationship (e.g. mesh or hub and spoke), which can then be provided to the much less doing so based a topological relationship between a plurality of sites that has been defined graphically. Although the software described in the Cisco reference can be used in conjunction with other software to generate configlets (see page 3-1) that are downloaded to target routers, there is no suggestion that rules constraining distribution of routes are automatically calculated by the software prior to downloading. For example, these rules, if indeed they are even present, may need to be entered into the Cisco software or specified in some other way. It is respectively submitted that it is speculative to suggest that these rules are being generated automatically by the software based merely on the fact that Cisco software is being used to provision the VPN.

Therefore, for at least these reasons the Cisco reference does not render obvious the independent claims as amended or the claims depending from them. Given the allowability of the independent claims all other reasoning in support of the rejections are moot and are not addressed. Applicant's choice not to address errors in the reasoning should not be construed as acquiescence to or agreement with any statements and reasoning in support of the rejections, and applicant respectfully reserves the right to address errors in this reasoning should they no longer be considered moot.

CONCLUSION

In light of the arguments set forth above, Applicants respectfully submit that the Application is now in allowable form. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request consideration and allowance of the currently pending claims.

Applicant hereby authorizes the Commissioner to charge any fees, other than issue fees, that may be required by this paper to Deposit Account No. 07-0153. The Examiner is respectfully requested to call Applicant's Attorney for any reasons that would advance the current application to issue. Please reference Attorney Docket No. 131105.1004.

Dated: November 27, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

//Marc A. Hubbard//
Marc A. Hubbard
Registration No. 32,506
ATTORNEY FOR APPLICANT

3000 Thanksgiving Tower
1601 Elm Street
Dallas, Texas 75201-4761
(214) 999-4880 - Telephone
(214) 999-3880 - Facsimile

DALLAS 1704868v1